

Pleasant Valley Weekly

But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. (Psalm 47 : 6—7)

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The Art of Selflessness: Taking one's self out of the equation

Have you ever seen a self-portrait? For an artist this is equivalent to an autobiography. A self-portrait is a representation of an artist that has been drawn, painted, photographed, or sculpted by the artist.

If you were to paint a self-portrait what would it show about you? James said that when we look into the perfect law of liberty it is like a man looking into a mirror revealing what he looks like. (James 1 : 23ff). Would your portrait be one of kindness, compassion, and caring? Or, would it be one of selfishness and a closed heart to those around you?

Ask yourself, "How do I see myself?" How about, "How do others see me?" More importantly, "How does God see me?" Are you who you think you are? Most of us want to have the first portrait drawn as described above, so what does it take? Jesus taught us all about selflessness, He even showed us.

This morning we discuss the Art of Selflessness. Interestingly enough, if you were a selfless person your self-portrait would not be of you at all, but of those that you have put before you. When you remove yourself from the equation then and only then will you achieve selflessness.

The Art of Selflessness

- * Selfish
Concerned primarily with one's own interests...regardless of others.
What about me!
- * Selfless
Having little or no concern for One's Self.
What about you!
- * Can we agree that being selfish is wrong?
Philippians 2 : 3—4; Galatians 5 : 19—20
- * Can we agree that being proud is wrong?
I Peter 5 : 5; Proverbs 16 : 18
- * How do we take ourselves out of the equation? How do we become selfless?
Listen to Jesus—Mark 10 : 43—45
We are not greater than our Master—John 13 : 12—16
- * I Corinthians 3 : 5—7
It's not about devaluating yourself, it's about deglorifying yourself.
- * Matthew 6 : 33
But How?
Deny Self, take up the cross, follow Him.